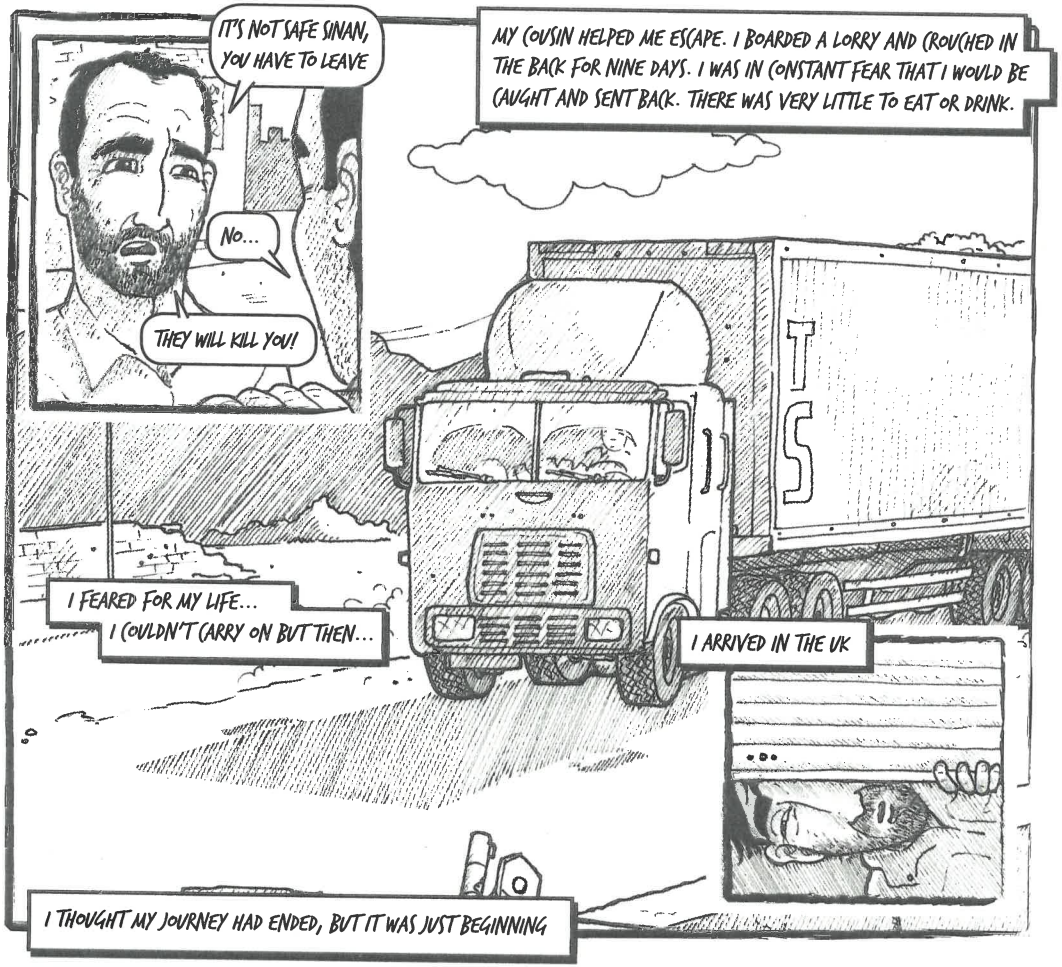
THE JOURNEY

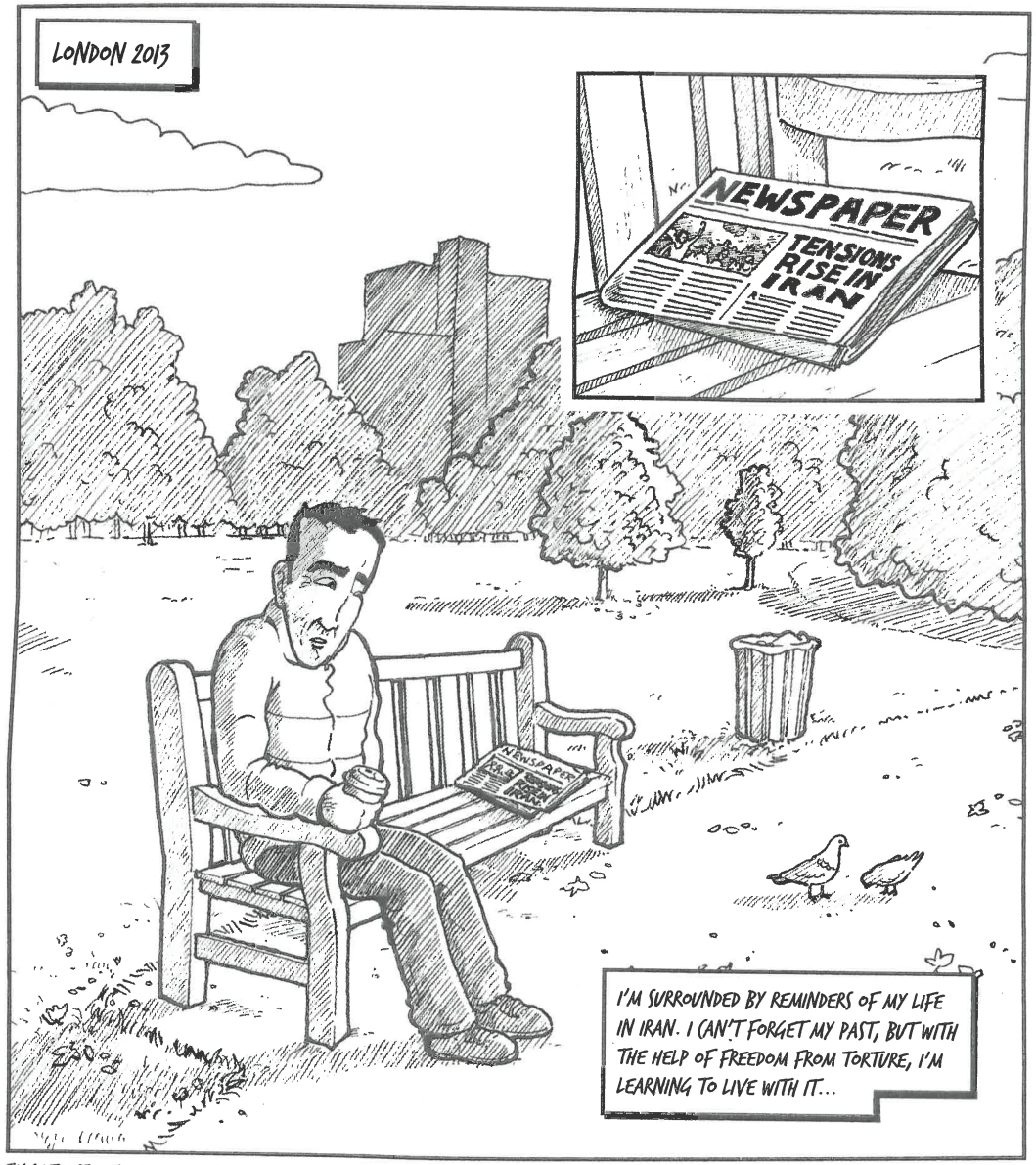
A STORY OF TORTURE, PERSECUTION AND SURVIVAL

Freedom from Torture
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture


IT'S NOT SAFE SINAN, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE
No...
THEY WILL KILL YOU!
MY COUSIN HELPED ME ESCAPE. I BOARDED A LORRY AND CROUCHED IN THE BACK FOR NINE DAYS. I WAS IN CONSTANT FEAR THAT I WOULD BE CAUGHT AND SENT BACK. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TO EAT OR DRINK.
I FEARED FOR MY LIFE... I COULDN'T CARRY ON BUT THEN...
I ARRIVED IN THE UK
I THOUGHT MY JOURNEY HAD ENDED, BUT IT WAS JUST BEGINNING

MEDICAL EVIDENCE COULD HELP YOUR ASYLUM CLAIM
SOLICITOR'S OFFICE 2011
I'VE MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU AT FREEDOM FROM TORTURE
Freedom from Torture

HELP MORE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE START A NEW CHAPTER IN THEIR LIVES. PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TODAY.


LONDON 2013
NEWSPAPER
TENSIONS RISE IN IRAN
I'M SURROUNDED BY REMINDERS OF MY LIFE IN IRAN. I CAN'T FORGET MY PAST, BUT WITH THE HELP OF FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, I'M LEARNING TO LIVE WITH IT...

THIS IS A TRUE STORY. TOLD IN A GRAPHIC STYLE INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF ARTISTS INCLUDING MARJANE SATRAPI AND [illegible]

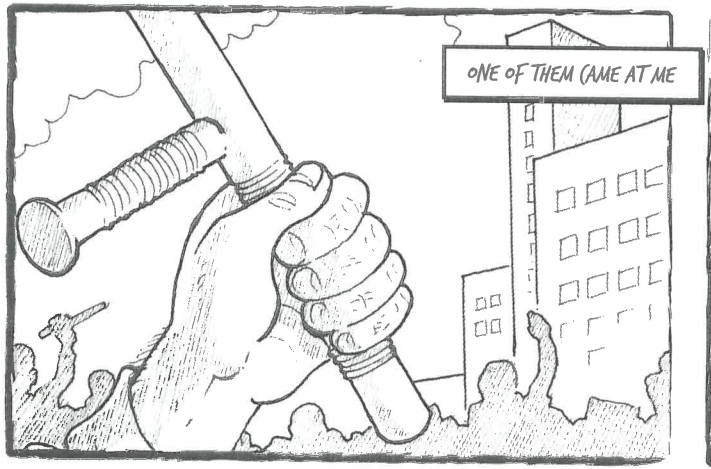
FREEDOM FROM TORTURE IS SO IMPORTANT TO MY STORY. YET I FOUND THEM ALMOST BY ACCIDENT
I THINK WE CAN HELP YOU SINAN
FREEDOM FROM TORTURE OFFICES 2011
I WAS REFERRED THERE BY MY SOLICITOR TO HAVE MY TORTURE INJURIES DOCUMENTED AS PART OF MY CLAIM FOR ASYLUM
WE NEED TO DO A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
I'D NEVER REALLY GONE INTO THE DETAILS OF MY TORTURE BEFORE...
THEY USED A, A METAL CABLE, LIKE FENCING WIRE...
IT BROUGHT ALL THE PAINFUL MEMORIES BACK
GOVERNMENT DETENTION CENTRE IRAN 2009
THEY BEAT ME...
...TIED ME TO A CHAIR...
...AND OFFERED ME A TERRIBLE CHOICE
EAR OR NOSE?
WELL? WHICH IS IT...?
TOE NAIL IT IS THEN
I PASSED OUT BECAUSE OF THE PAIN
LONDON 2011
JUST TALKING ABOUT IT... I COULDN'T BREATHE
BUT THE PEOPLE AT FREEDOM FROM TORTURE UNDERSTOOD
IT'S OK, YOU'RE SAFE HERE

THEY THOUGHT SOME SESSIONS WITH LIZ, THEIR PHYSIOTHERAPIST, TO LEARN BREATHING TECHNIQUES WOULD HELP
OK, BREATHE... NOW HOLD IT

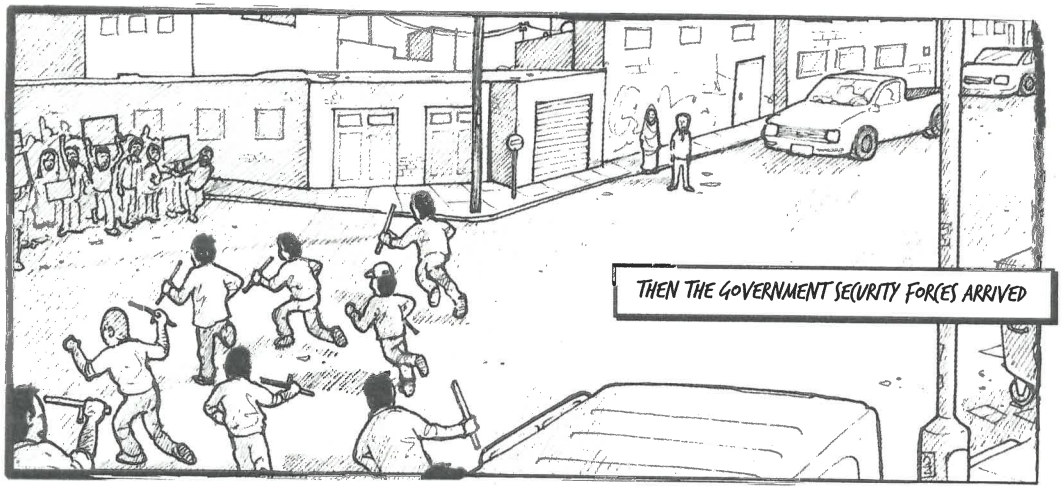
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I FOUND I COULD OPEN UP TO HER...
...WE HADN'T BEEN PAID FOR MONTHS. IT WASN'T RIGHT

No, No! PLEASE!
STOP. WE'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG!
RUN!

OUTSIDE THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, IRAN 2009
A PEACEFUL PROTEST HAD BEEN ORGANISED...


ONE OF THEM CAME AT ME

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE...


THEN THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES ARRIVED

I WOKE UP ALONE...
IN A TINY ROOM

MY HEAD WAS BLEEDING AND I WAS BRUISED ALL OVER
I COULD HEAR THE SCREAMS OF OTHER PRISONERS. I WAS TERRIFIED

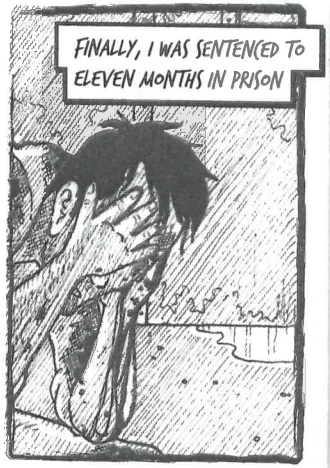
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS IN THERE BUT EVENTUALLY I WAS TAKEN FOR INTERROGATION
GET UP. NOW!

EMINE DIDN'T JUDGE ME AND THERE WAS NO PRESSURE
WE'LL JUST TAKE THIS AT YOUR PACE SINAN

OUTSIDE PRISON, IRAN 2010
I TOLD HER ABOUT MY RELEASE FROM PRISON...

I WAS ASKED QUESTIONS...

BUT THEY DIDN'T LIKE MY ANSWERS


FINALLY, I WAS SENTENCED TO ELEVEN MONTHS IN PRISON

...AND WORKING IN MY FATHER'S SHOP. I STILL WANTED CHANGE AND BEGAN DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS FOR A PARTY OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT
V.MART
ONE DAY I FOUND THE SHOP HAD BEEN RAIDED
IT WAS YOU THEY CAME FOR COUSIN

SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED. TALKING ABOUT IT ACTUALLY MADE ME FEEL BETTER...THEY UNDERSTOOD!
I THINK YOU WOULD BENEFIT FROM TALKING TO MY COLLEAGUE. SHE'S A THERAPIST
THIS IS EMINE
HELLO SINAN

AND THEN THE SECURITY FORCES CAME LOOKING FOR ME AGAIN
WE NEED TO GO